

Message Text

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10

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 USSS-00 FBIE-00 VO-03

SCA-01 INSE-00 CPR-01 OIC-02 TRSE-00 /069 W

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P 090830Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4627

INFO USMISSION UN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0716

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: UNGA, OVIP (CLAUDE, ANDRE), LU

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF GOL UNGA DELEGATION

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0688

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST LEARNED THAT ONE ADDITIONAL SENIOR OFFICIAL WILL ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER THORN TO UNGA SESSION IN NEW YORK. ANDRE CLAUDE, THE GOL'S CHIEF PRESS SPOKESMAN, WILL ARRIVE ON SEPTEMBER 9 WITH PAUL HELMINGER AND PLANS TO BRIEF US NEWSMEN AND PAVE WAY FOR HIS CHIEF. BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF CLAUDE FOLLOWS.

2. BORN IN ESCH IN 1928, CLAUDE STUDIED LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GRENOBLE, FRANCE, AND IN 1950 RECEIVED A DEGREE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LAW ACADEMY IN THE HAGUE. AFTER TWO YEARS WITH AN AMERICAN FIRM IN BRUSSELS, HE JOINED THE GOL'S PRESS AND INFORMATION SERVICE AND IN 1960 BECAME ITS HEAD. A LARGE, EBULLIENT, GREGARIOUS MAN WHO SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL BUT EXTREMELY FAST, CLAUDE HAS EARNED THE RESPECT OF LUXEMBOURG JOURNALISTS FOR HIS INTEGRITY AND HELPFULNESS AS CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR THE GOL. HE IS A LONGTIME FRIEND OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN LUXEMBOURG, AND SPENT A MONTH IN THE US IN 1958 ON A USAF-SPONSORED TOUR FOR BELGIAN AND LUXEMBOURG

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JOURNALISTS. IN THE MID-FIFTIES HE WAS TARGETED BY

SOVIET PRESS AND CULTURAL OFFICIALS WHO BROUGHT PRESSURE
ON HIM TO INCREASE THE COVERAGE OF SOVIET VIEWS IN
THE LUXEMBOURG MEDIA, BUT REPEATEDLY DECLINED TO GIVE THEM
SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT. RESTLESS AND ENERGETIC, CLAUDE
IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION IS CRITICAL OF HIS COUNTRYMEN'S
INNATE CONSERVATISM AND FAVORS A THOROUGH MODERNIZATION
OF ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS. HOWEVER, HE
ACTS AS A VIGOROUS PUBLIC DEFENDER OF ITS HISTORICAL
SITES AND BUILDINGS, ONE OF HIS SPECIAL INTERESTS. SINCE
1967 HE HAS BEEN A WIDOWER WITH TWO TEEN-AGE CHILDREN.
PHILLIPS

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